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Message Text

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63
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 049849
R 121314Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 36
INFO USLO PEKING
DOD/ISA WASHDC
DIA
NHD:
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1877

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CH, EG
SUBJECT: VP MOBAREK ON PRC MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

1.DURING CODEL STEVENSON'S MEETING WITH VP MOBAREK TODAY, THE VP WAS ASKED ABOUT GOE-PRC RELATIONS. NOTING PRC'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS SOVIET ACTIVITIES, HE RESPONDED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN GOE AND PRC ARE CORRECT, BUT LIMITED IN SCOPE. PRC AMB CLOSELY WATCHES SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND DELIGHTS IN ANY SOVIET SETBACKS LOCALLY.

2. ALLUDING TO SOVIET STOPPAGE OF SPARE PARTS AND ENGINE OVERHAUL FOR EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT, MOBAREK THEN RELATED THAT GOE HAD REQUESTED PRC ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING PSARE PARTS FOR MIG ENGINES. ALTHOUGH CHINESE MIGS WERE INITIALLY COPIED FROM SOVIET MODELS, PRC HAS CHANGED CONFIGURATION SOMEWHAT. HENCE, NOT TOO MANY PRC MANUFACTURED SPARE PARTS EASILY INTERCHANGEABLE. HOWEVER, PRCE HAD OFFERED TO PROVIDE SOME 20 TO 25 ENGINES FOR EGYPTIAN MIG 17'S. IT HAD REFUSED TO TAKE PAYMENT AND
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INSISTED THESE ENGINES WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF

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CHARGE.

3. MOBAREK DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW EXACTLY WHEN THESE MIG ENGINES WOULD ARRIVE.

4. AIRA COMMENT: PRC GIFT IS MORE SYMBOLIC THAN REAL. MILITARILY, 20 OR 25 MIG 17 ENGINES WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE CAPABILITY. THE AIRCRAFT IS OLD, OF RELATIVELY LOW PERFORMANCE, AND LOGICALLY HIGH ON THE LIST OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR REPLACEMENT. HOWEVER, ONCE ENGINES ARE RECEIVED AND INSTALLED, THEY WILL AT LEAST INCREASE SLIGHTLY THE SMALL NUMBER OF FLYING HOURS WHICH MIG-17 QUALIFIED EAF PILOTS NOW RECEIVE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
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